#6
MOONSTONE
$3.50
THE PHANTOM
Rafael Nieves
Jorge DeCaire

THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"DAMNATION GAME"

PART TWO OF TWO

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANTS
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AND ED RHOADES

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JOHANNSEN MEDICAL CENTER. CHICAGO. MIDNIGHT.
THIS IS HORRIBLE!
I THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH THIS BEAST!
YEAH, HE DOES HAVE A CERTAIN... CHARM. FOR A WOLF, I MEAN.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON? REALLY? WITH PALMER, MR. WALKER, MASON AND ALL THAT?
OH, MAN, I HAVE NO IDEA. WHATEVER IT IS THOUGH IS VERY WEIRD, VERY SCARY, AND VERY NEW TO ME.
YEAH. HMPF. AND HERE WE ARE ON THE SIDELINES. HOPE WE SEE SOME ACTION SOON.
RRRRR-
WHAT THE...!?
MADRE DE DIOS!
HEY, YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
K-POW!
BUDDA BUDDA

RRRRRR
NNNN?
...MENTE...
...MENTE...
CHAK!

GRAASH!
OH, SNAP. THIS IS BAD.
THINK WE CAN REACH AGENT PALMER?
DUNNO. NOT SURE IF HE'S LANDED IN D.C. YET.
THIS ONE IS IRREFUTABLY DEAD.
...I THINK HE WAS PART OF THE PROBLEM.
"WAS" BEING THE OPERATIVE, HERE.
SHOULD WE CONTACT MASON? THINK HE CAN HELP?
I DON'T THINK MASON WILL BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, PARTNER...
YEAH.
WE GOT TWO PLAYERS MISSING. THE WOLF AND WALKER. YOU CLOCK THE HAT AND COAT ON THE CHAIR, THERE?
'MEMBER HOW YOU SAID MR. WALKER WAS A DANGEROUS MAN?
SO, WHERE ARE THEY?
I THINK HE JUST GOT DANGEROUSER.

"WE TRY AN TRY AN TRY AN TRY, BUT PEOPLE LIKE US DON'T EVER GET BY, WE SCRAPE AN CLAW AN HOPE AN PRAY, BUT WHEN WE THE PEOPLE GONNA HAVE OUR DAY?"
POK T'POK-POK
POK T'POK-POK
"WE CRY AN CRY AN CRY AN CRY, THEN WE LEAVE THIS URF WIDDOUT KNOWIN WHY"
POK T'POK-POK
POK T'POK-POK
THANK YOU, BROTHAH.
"WE WORK AND FIGHT AND SLAVE AND PRAY BUT GOT NOTHIN TO SHOW, COME JUDGEMENT DAY."
"WHEN WE THE PEOPLE GONNA FIND THE WAY TO LAUGH TO LIVE TO LOVE? WHEN WE THE PEOPLE GONNA FEEL OUR GODS, SMILING FROM ABOVE?"
WHA-?
POK T'POK-POK
POK T'POK-POK
POK T'P-

GEEZ, OL' MAN, YOU MESSIN WITH MY RHYMES, DUDE!
WASSUP, ABU, YOU SEEN A GHOST?
TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK! TAKETA TAKETA TAKE
HECK IZZAIT MAN, YOU AINT IN THE JUNGLE NO MO'!
TAKETA TAK-TAK! TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK!
?
!
TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK!
TINKETA TINKETA TINKETA TINKETA TINK-TINK!
KASHETA KASHETA KASHETA KASHETA KASH-KASH!

PAPPETA PAPPETA PAPPETA PAPPETA PAP-PAP!
?
...IT CAN'T BE!
He's Coming
DECKER
GO, MON! YEAH!
4382
THWAPPETA THWAPPETA THWAPPETA THWAPPETA THWHWAP-THWAP!
YOU HEAR DOT, AKASHA? I TOLD YOU!
DE DRUMS. FROM MY YOUT'...
DEY SAY, 'HE COME'...
TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK!
DEY SAY, 'HE IS HERE!'

KETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK!
TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAKETA TAK-TAK!
TAKETA TAKETA TA
Le Satyre's
ICE WATER
BRANDY
WHOA!

...EH EH EH EH... BEH-EH...
...BUH BEH BUH BEH BUH BEH... BEH-BEH...
YEAH... OKAY... BUT HE'S TOAST, RIGHT? ...YEAH, OKAY, WELL, KEEP AN EYE OUT, YEAH?
WHAT NEWS, SANTOS? MAKE IT GOOD.
OKAY, MASON'S BEEN HIT, BUT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT THE LITTLE GUY. TWO OF PALMER'S PEOPLE ARE THERE. PALMER'S ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON, SO NO WORRIES.
NO SIGN OF HIS FRIEND, THOUGH. LOOKS LIKE HE BOLTED. LEAST, THAT'S WHAT MY GUYS SAY.
BUHM-BEH, BUHM-BEH, BUHM...
PERHAPS WE FRIGHTENED HIM OFF? I WONDER...
FRANCOIS, WILL YOU SHUT UP!
TAKE THAT TRAY INTO THE KITCHEN AND STAY THERE UNTIL I CALL FOR YOU!
GOOD HELP IS SO HARD TO FIND.
...BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM!

DUDE, YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YEAH, MAN, THIS IS GONNA BE SWEET!
UH, HEY, MAN! WHAT-- WHAT'S UP?
'CHU WANT?
YEAH, UH, Y'KNOW, WE WERE LOOKING TO SCORE, DUDE.
YEAH? YOU GOT MONEY?
OH, YEAH, MAN, NO WORRIES. WE GOT PLENTY!
HA HAH HAH!
DAVE, ARE YOU HIGH? DON'T SHOW HIM ALL THE DOUGH!
OH, YEAH, FIRST TIME BUYERS, I LOVE IT!
AWRIGHT, YOU GIMME THE BREAD FIRST, THEN MY PARTNER GIVE YOU THE STUFF.
BOLO!
OH, DUDE, LOOK AT THAT DUDE!
I THINK I JUST PEED MYSELF, MAN.
I KNEW WE SHOULDA STUCK TO GRASS!

LET'S JUST GET THIS STUFF AND GO, MAN.
BOLO! HOLD 'EM!
HEY, MAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DUDE, WE DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'!
NAW, MAN, I--ARGH! --WE DIDN'T KNOW!
HE'S HURTING US! LEMME GO, DUDE! WE'LL GET THE REST, HONEST!
YOU BOYS IS SHORT. TRYIN' TO RIP ME OFF?
C'MON, NOW! YOU WASTIN' MY TIME HERE. THE DRAGON DON'T PLAY GAMES. AIN'T NO 'NEXT TIME' WITH HIM. YOU NEED A LESSON.
CRUSH 'EM, BOLO.
NYA-
RRROW!
GET'IM OFF, GET'IM OFF!
RRRRR
WHERE IS PAOLO MBEYE?

WHERE IS PAOLO MBEYE?
RRR
WHO'S THAT?
WHO CARES?! KICK HIS ASS, MAN! HAH! NOW YOU GUYS ARE GONNA GET IT!
WHERE IS PAOLO MBEYE?
-SOB- WHO, MAN, I DUNNO WHATCHU TALKIN ABOUT, PLEASE GET HIM OFFA ME, AW-IGHT, PLEASE!
HE WAS TRYING TO KILL US!
YEAH! HE TOLD THIS-- THING TO CRUSH US!
YOU GUYS BETTER LET US GO NOW OR HE'S GONNA REALLY LET YOU HAVE IT!
BE QUIET.
YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELVES.
GO. NEXT TIME YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY.
THANKS, MISTER. HEY, WHAT ABOUT OUR MONEY?
GO!
RRRRRR
PLEASE MAN, DON'T LET HIM HURT ME.
DEVIL HASN'T EATEN TODAY, AND HE'S NOT VERY PARTICULAR. NOW WHERE IS PAOLO MBEYE?
OH, AND LET THOSE KIDS GO.

OOF!
NOW YOU GONE GIT IT, MAN!
THROW THAT DOG AWAY, BOLO!
DEVIL!
WHATCHU GONE DO NOW, HUH, BAD MAN?
YOU GOT NOTHIN'!
... HELLO? ...YEAH, IT'S MOOKY, MAN...
IT'S BAD, DUDE, HE TOOK OUT BOLO... I DON'T KNOW, SOME BADASS!
WHAT... WALKER? YO, I DIN'T ASK HIS NAME, AW-IGHT?
TELL MR. MBEYE... TELL MR. MBEYE THAT JUSTICE IS COMING...
NO, NO, LISTEN... I GOT A MESSAGE FOR MR. MBEYE, YO...

"...JUSTICE IS COMING TONIGHT!"
--LLO, BOILS AND GHOULS, THIS IS YOUR OLD FIEND FANNIE FANG--
PAOLO MBEYE'S MANSION. 2 A.M.
-- BRINGING YOU ANOTHER DOUBLE SHRUNKEN-HEADER FROM THE MIDNIGHT THEATER ARCHIVES...
...IT'S GONNA BE A BLAST!
KRASSSSH!
FIRST UP WE HAVE DEVIL MAY CARE, STARRING PETER CUSHION...
CHECK UPSTAIRS.
...FOLLOWED BY JUNGLE VENGEANCE, WITH CRISTOBEL LEE AND PIETR FALK!

SO, SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW, KIDS, IT'S GONNA GET WIL--
CLICK
BLAM!
K-POW!
K-POW!
K-POW!
BLAM!

K-POW!
K-POW!
CLIK!
CLIK-CLIK!
K-CHK!
K-CHK!
UNH-UNH-UNH!
DON'T DO IT, 'MANO. IT'LL ONLY BRING YOU PAIN.
OH, MAN. THA'S A PRETTY COSTUME YOU GOT! PURPLE IS YOUR COLOR, DEFINITELY.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MISTER, AND I DON'T CARE, BUT YOU MESSED WITH THE WRONG MAN THIS TIME.
WHERE IS PAOLO MBEYE?
WHAT? YOU GOT A PIECE POINTED DEAD ATCHA, AND YOU STILL GONNA ASK ME QUESTIONS?
OH, WOW, YOU DURO, BRO; A HARD MAN. STRONG, YOU KNOW?
LISTEN, MAN, LEMME ASK YOU SOMETHIN' NOW, 'KAY?
YOU SOME KINDA HERO, RIGHT?
WHO'S GONNA SAVE YOU?

HE'S GONNA EAT ME! HELP ME, MAN, PLEASE! GET HIM OFFA ME!
PLEASE MAN, C'MON!
SNIF
:-)SNIF:- YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
GET OUT. NOW.
JENNY! HELP ME, GIRL!
SCREW YOU, MAN, I'M OUTTA HERE!
SHEEEK

THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM
?
SLAM!
CLIK
RRRR
THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM

THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM

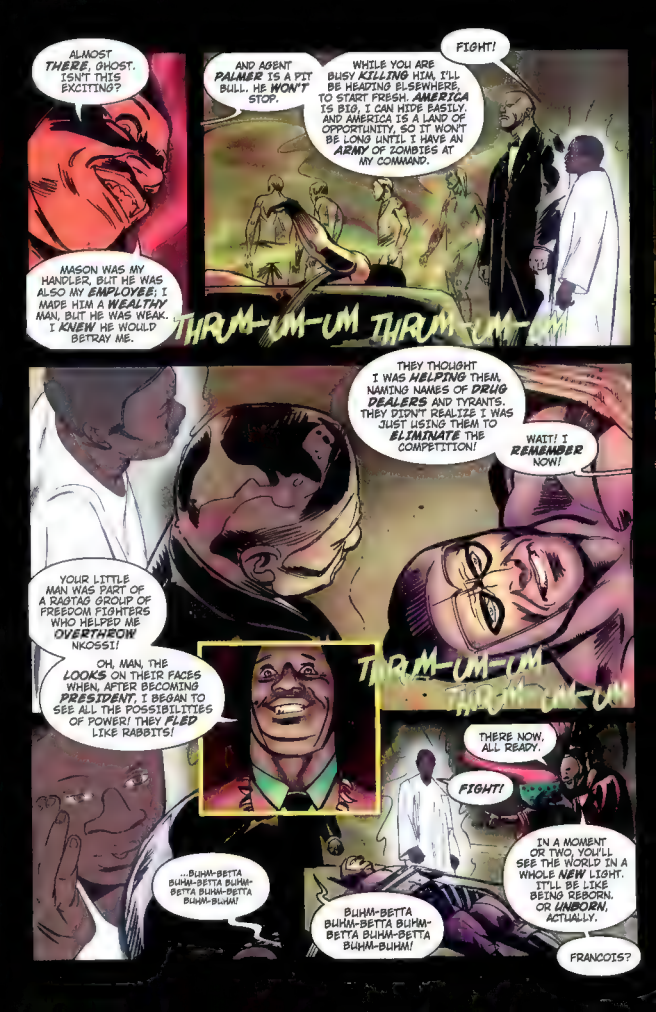
DULLES AIRPORT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 2 AM.
GREAVES, WHAT IS GOING ON THERE? I'VE JUST LEFT A MEETING AND I'VE GOT 23 VOICE MESSAGES ON MY CELL!
...I KNOW MASON IS DEAD... OLALLA, TOO... JUST GOT THE REPORT... YEAH, THEY'RE ALREADY AT MASON'S HOUSE...
...WHAT?... REALLY. WELL, THAT'S GOOD NEWS I GUESS...
YES, SIR, A MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH AND A FILING CABINET FULL OF FOCUMENTATION WOULD ENSURE INDICTMENT, IF MASON WERE STILL ALIVE...
...YES, SIR, THEY'RE HERE... COUGHLIN IS... NO, THEY DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING, HE'S PLAYING DUMB RIGHT NOW... THAT'S NOT NICE, SIR...
JUST KEEP STALLING, WE NEED A LITTLE LEAD TIME HERE, GREAVES. AS SOON AS YOU CAN, I WANT YOU AND COUGHLIN TO TAKE THE PH-- MR. WALKER, OVER TO--
WHAT?
...YES, SIR ...GONE, BOTH OF 'EM ...YE-- YESSIR ...YES, SIR!
...US? WELL, WE WERE WATERING THE DOG, SIR. I MEAN, THE WOLF!
WELL, NOT WATERING, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, AND-- YES, SIR, I'M SHUTTING UP NOW.
I'M ON MY WAY NOW. YOU TWO GET OVER TO MBBYB'S PLACE ASAP! TAKE WHOEVER YOU CAN FIND.
...AND TELL COUGHLIN THERE'S NO SUCH WORD AS "DANGEROUSER". BUT IF THERE WERE, IT WOULD DESCRIBE MR. WALKER PERFECTLY.

<WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING, MENTE?>
<TOMORROW MORNING, DAWN.>
<I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO.>
<ME, TOO. BUT I DO. YOU UNDERSTAND WHY, DON'T YOU?>
*TRANSLATED FROM BANGALLAN.
<THE PEOPLE OF BARAK ARE TIRED OF BEING HURT, OR IMPRISONED, OR EVEN KILLED ON THE WHIM OF THIS BRUTAL DICTATOR, BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.>
<THE PHANTOM HAS TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, TO DEFEND THE WEAK. I MUST GO TO HELP MY FELLOW MAN.>
<BESIDES, I HEAR BARAK WOMEN ARE VERY PRETTY! MAYBE I'LL MEET MY WIFE THERE!>
<OKAY, ROMEO! BUT BE CAREFUL, PLEASE!>
<I WILL, MY FRIEND. I WILL.>
<I'M TO MEET THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION AS SOON AS I ARRIVE. HE'S A GREAT MAN.>
<COLONEL MBEYE WILL TAKE CARE OF ME, I'M SURE.>

-AKE UP, FINALLY, HEY?
HELLO.
PAOLO MBEYE.
ACTUALLY, I MUCH PREFER THE DRAGON; I GAVE MYSELF THAT NAME, YOU KNOW. AFTER MANY YEARS OF DORMANCY, I AWOKE, ROSE UP FROM THE EARTH, BREATHING FIRE.
I LIKE THE IMAGERY, DON'T YOU?
BY DORMANCY, YOU MEAN GOOD AND JUST, DON'T YOU?
I MEAN DEAD! DEAD IN SPIRIT, IN DESIRE!
I FOOLED MYSELF INTO THINKING THAT SAMI NKOSSI WAS AN EVIL MAN, UNTIL I FOUND MYSELF IN HIS WAKE. WITH HIS POWER AND THE ADORATION OF THE PEOPLE.
YOU'RE INSANE.
HA HA HA!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT! IF POWER AND WEALTH CAN MAKE YOU CRAZY, THEN I'M MAD WITH IT!
YOU'LL BE STOPPED, MBEYE.
BY WHO? YOU?!
BY PEOPLE LIKE MENTE OLALLA. GOOD PEOPLE.

THAT LITTLE MAN?
CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE WAS!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AT ALL IN THAT LITTLE DINER THAT NIGHT, BUT HE CERTAINLY RECOGNIZED ME!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE FEAR IN HIS EYES. IT WAS DELICIOUS!
ARR!
WHOA! HA HA, MY, YOU'RE STRONG, AREN'T YOU? STRONGER THAN FRED MASON, THAT'S FOR SURE.
AH, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM, CRYING LIKE A LITTLE BABY JUST BEFORE HE TURNED.
YOU'RE GOING... WITHOUT QUESTION.
SNIIIIF!
HEHEH. YOU'LL TRULY BE "THE GHOST WHO WALKS"!
OH, YES, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. OF COURSE I DO. YOUR... LEGEND IS SOMETHING I ASPIRE TO.
BUT, ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE, FRANCOIS, IF YOU WILL...

GRAH!
STOP STRUGGLING, GHOST. YOU ONLY NEED TO SWALLOW A SMALL BIT OF POTION. IT TASTES LESS BITTER WHEN MIXED WITH ALCOHOL, BUT--
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT SUPERNATURAL AT ALL, ZOMBIEISM. IT'S A SCIENCE; YOU JUST NEED THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF HERBS; FIRST THE POTION, TO SLOW DOWN YOUR METABOLISM, WEAKEN YOUR DEFENSES...
THRUM-UM-UM THRUM-UM-UM
THEN THE MIXTURE, IN POWDER FORM, FOLLOWED BY SOME SIMPLE HYPNOTISM. ANYONE CAN DO IT, REALLY. IT HELPS IF THE SUBJECT BELIEVES IN THE OCCULT, GOES MUCH FASTER IF THEY THINK THEY REALLY ARE DYING, AND THEN ARE RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD.
THRUM-UM-UM THRUM-UM-UM
BUT EVENTUALLY, ALL WILL SUCCUMB...
THRUM-UM-UM THRUM-UM-UM
MASON DID...
YOUR LITTLE MENTE DID...
THRUM-UM-UM THRUM-UM-UM
...MENTE...


ALMOST THERE, GHOST. ISN'T THIS EXCITING?
MASON WAS MY HANDLER, BUT HE WAS ALSO MY EMPLOYEE; I MADE HIM A WEALTHY MAN, BUT HE WAS WEAK. I KNEW HE WOULD BETRAY ME.
AND AGENT PALMER IS A PIT BULL. HE WON'T STOP.
WHILE YOU ARE BUSY KILLING HIM, I'LL BE HEADING ELSEWHERE, TO START FRESH. AMERICA IS BIG, I CAN HIDE EASILY, AND AMERICA IS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY, SO IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL I HAVE AN ARMY OF ZOMBIES AT MY COMMAND.
FIGHT!
THRUM-UM-UM
THEY THOUGHT I WAS HELPING THEM, NAMING NAMES OF DRUG DEALERS AND TYRANTS. THEY DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS JUST USING THEM TO ELIMINATE THE COMPETITION!
WAIT! I REMEMBER NOW!
YOUR LITTLE MAN WAS PART OF A RASTAS GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO HELPED ME OVERTHROW NKOSSI!
OH, MAN, THE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES WHEN, AFTER BECOMING PRESIDENT, I BEGAN TO SEE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF POWER! THEY FLED LIKE RABBITS!
THRUM-UM-UM
THRUM-UM-UM
THERE NOW, ALL READY.
FIGHT!
IN A MOMENT OR TWO, YOU'LL SEE THE WORLD IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT. IT'LL BE LIKE BEING REBORN. OR UNBORN, ACTUALLY.
FRANCOIS?
...BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM!
BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM!

BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP THAT!
THRUM-UM-UM-UM BETTA THRUM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA
ALL OF YOU! STOP THAT INFERNAL RACKET NOW!
FRANCOIS, LEAVE HIM ALONE! DON'T TOUCH H--
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! WHAT HAVE YOU--
BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM
BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BETTA BUHM-BUHM
WHAM!

DEA
PAOLO MBEYE! THIS IS THE DEA! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
BREEP BREEP BREEP
HELP ME...
JUST THIS GUY, SIR, WHO PROMISES TO GIVE UP PAOLO MBEYE IF WE "KEEP THE DOG AWAY" FROM HIM?
WE GOT A STAIRWELL HIDDEN IN THE BEDROOM CLOSET!
YEAH?!
I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO BE SEEN, DON.
WHERE ARE YOU?
CLOSE BY. I BORROWED SOME OF MBEYE'S CLOTHES.
YOU'LL FIND THE HERBS HE USED TO MAKE HIS CREATURES IN THE CHAMBER BELOW. ALONG WITH SOME OF HIS CREATIONS. SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE POOR MEN.
AND MBEYE?
BUHM-BETTA-BUHM-BETTA-BUHM-BETTA-

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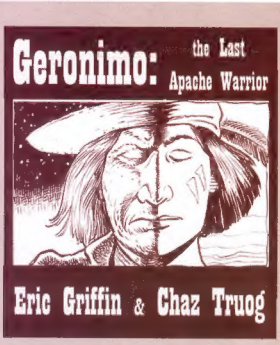

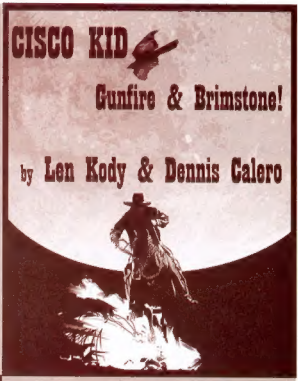

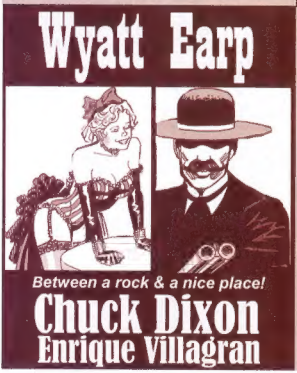

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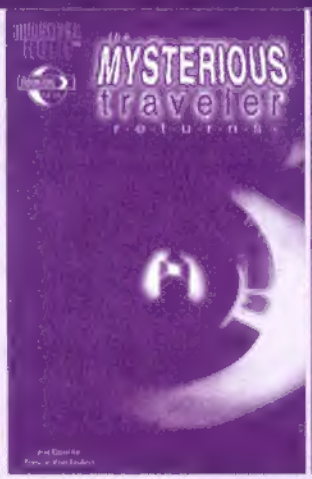

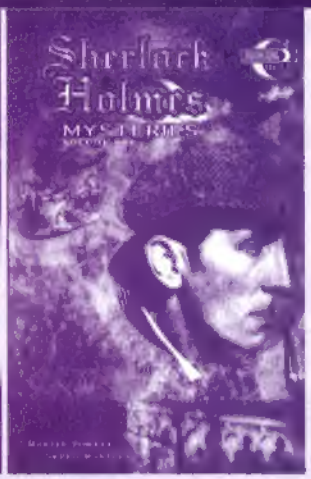

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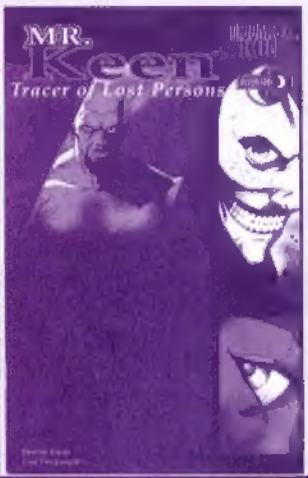

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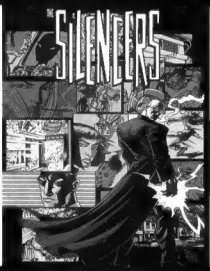

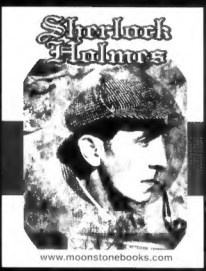

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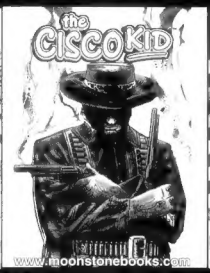

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